

METHOD FOR REVAMPING FIXED-BED CATALYTIC REFORMERS

Abstract

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A method for converting a fixed-bed catalytic reformer unit to a moving-bed unit. The fixed bed reactor is converted to a moving bed reactor that has continuous or intermittent catalyst feeding facilities to allow continuous or intermittent addition of fresh or regenerated catalyst to the catalyst inlet of the moving-bed reactor and continuous or intermittent removal of spent catalyst from the catalyst outlet of the moving-bed reactor. The spent catalyst removed from the reactor is regenerated in a non-integrated regenerator which may be an offsite regenerator, a centrally located on-site regenerator which serves several reforming units or a regenerator shared with a second moving bed unit. The moving-bed reactor, the catalyst feeding facilities and the catalyst recovery facilities are operatively connected between themselves and to existing facilities from the fixed bed unit, such as piping, compression and reformer charge handling and heating. The converted unit is operated at an effective reactor pressure to improve reformat quality and yield over the reformat product from the fixed-bed unit before the conversion.

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